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(Original Signature of Member)

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To direct the Archivist of the United States to address certain record request backlogs, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. KELLER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To direct the Archivist of the United States to address certain record request backlogs, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Reopening to address
5 Every COmplete Record request for Devoted
6 Servicemembers Act of 2021” or the “RECORDS Act of
7 2021”.

1 **SEC. 2. NATIONAL PERSONNEL RECORDS CENTER BACK-**
2 **LOG REDUCTION.**

3 (a) STAFFING LEVELS.—Not later than 30 days after
4 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Archivist of the
5 United States shall take such actions as are necessary to
6 ensure—

7 (1) the number of individuals employed by the
8 National Personnel Records Center is equal to or ex-
9 ceeds the number of such individuals employed on
10 March 2, 2020; and

11 (2) the percentage of such individuals regularly
12 reporting to work in person is equal to or exceeds
13 the percentage of such individuals regularly report-
14 ing to work in person on March 2, 2020.

15 (b) COMPREHENSIVE PLAN.—

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after
17 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Archivist
18 of the United States shall submit to the appropriate
19 congressional committees a report that—

20 (A) provides a comprehensive plan to ad-
21 dress the record request backlog of the National
22 Personnel Records Center and improve the effi-
23 ciency and responsiveness of operations at the
24 Center;

1 (B) identifies measurable goals with re-
2 spect to the comprehensive plan and metrics for
3 tracking progress toward such goals; and

4 (C) describes strategies to prevent future
5 record request backlogs, including backlogs
6 caused by an event that prevents employees of
7 the Center from reporting to work in person.

8 (2) UPDATES.—Not later than 90 days after
9 submission of the report required under paragraph
10 (1) and quarterly thereafter, the Archivist of the
11 United States shall submit to the appropriate con-
12 gressional committees an update of such report
13 that—

14 (A) describes progress made by the Na-
15 tional Personnel Records Center during the pre-
16 ceding 90-day period with respect to record re-
17 quest backlog reduction and efficiency and re-
18 sponsiveness improvement;

19 (B) provides data on progress made to-
20 ward the goals identified in such report; and

21 (C) describes any changes made to the
22 comprehensive plan provided in such report.

23 (3) CONSULTATION REQUIREMENT.—In car-
24 rying out this subsection, the Archivist of the United
25 States shall consult with the Secretary of Veterans

1 Affairs on best practices for reducing record request
2 backlogs.

3 (4) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
4 TEES DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term “ap-
5 propriate congressional committees” means—

6 (A) in the House of Representatives—

7 (i) the Committee on Oversight and
8 Reform; and

9 (ii) the Committee on Veterans’ Af-
10 fairs; and

11 (B) in the Senate—

12 (i) the Committee on Homeland Secu-
13 rity and Governmental Affairs; and

14 (ii) the Committee on Veterans’ Af-
15 fairs.